

# EFFECT OF THE EUROPEAN WAR

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of the war, the destruction of life and treasure, the promptest relief or removal of abnormal financial conditions, and the reconstruction of commerce upon a customary basis—was of the intensest significance for this country in our possession of a power of searching neutral vessels for discovery of the presumed conveyance of goods intended for the enemy's service, and their seizure. A few examples which occurred during this contest may be cited. Taking the article of copper (essential to the manufacture of munitions) it was ascertained from official statistics that the exportation of this metal from the United States during the months of September and October, 1914, and during the same months in 1913, was as follows:—

	lbs. 1913	lbs. 1.914
1. To Italy (before her union with the Allies) <sup>1</sup> .	J	25,000,000
2. To Holland.....	1,300,000	12,200,000
3. To Norway . . . . .	none	8,200,000
4. To Sweden . . . . .	2,800,000	6,700,000

The conclusion is instant. These so-termed neutral countries had not imported this vast accession of copper for domestic uses, but for the purpose of re-exporting it at a substantial profit, to Germany and Austria; that is to say, the copper capitalists in America, acting through their agents in neutral lands, were supplying Germany with this ore which, was impossible of direct importation. The American people admitted copper to be rightly declared by us to be contraband: was there not then superabundant justification, in these enormous increases of a prohibited article, of our paramount right of self-protection by search and seizure ? England did not place cotton on the contraband list, though it forms an element in the manufacture of a powerful explosive. Yet we found (as America admitted) that professedly-exclusive cotton cargoes were surreptitiously used to conceal copper within the bales 1 It was ascertained that these copper magnates calcu-

<sup>1</sup> Although Italy was entangled with Germany through the Triple Alliance, and her trade intimately associated with Germany, she yet virtually continued neutral until her union with the Allies in May, 1915.